

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 13, 2006. Claims 1 to 4 and 6 are pending in the application, with Claim 5 having been cancelled, and Claim 6 having been newly-added. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been amended, and Claims 1 and 6 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0060767 (Wang). Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and without conceding the correctness of its rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns an apparatus for handling an object by using optical tweezers. The apparatus includes a light source, and a first base to produce a plurality of lights as the optical tweezers with light emitted from the light source, wherein the plurality of lights is used as the optical tweezers. The apparatus also includes a projection optical system having a zoom function to form an image with the plurality of lights, and a second base to hold a liquid including the object. The apparatus is configured such that the object is captured by the plurality of lights and the object moves as the plurality of lights move.

A feature of the invention therefore lies in an apparatus including a projection optical system having a zoom function to form an image with a plurality of lights. By virtue of this feature, the image formed with the plurality of lights can be adjusted depending on the size and/or shape of an object, and the image can be maintained

during manipulation of the object. The applied reference of Wang is not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

As understood by Applicant, Wang discloses an apparatus in which an optical pattern 38 moves relative to other objects, e.g., the particles, the substrate, and/or the fluidic medium containing the particles, by virtue of a change in the optical path length between a first transmitted beam 28 and the combination of a first reflected beam 30 and a second reflected beam 34. See Wang, paragraph [0093].

As such, Wang is seen to disclose an apparatus in which an optical pattern moves by virtue of a change in optical path length. However, Wang is not seen to disclose or suggest that its apparatus includes a projection optical system, muchless that such a projection optical system has a zoom function to form an image with a plurality of lights. Furthermore, Wang is not seen to suggest the attendant benefits provided by such a projection optical system.


Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1 and 6 are believed to be allowable over the art of record.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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